

13 March 1980

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Programs & Procedures Staff  
Office of PersonnelFROM: Herbert E. Hetu  
Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: Your Suggestion 79-445 -- "CIA Anniversary Display"

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1. The Office of Public Affairs commends the attached suggestion for an Agency historical display and basically concurs with the comments of the Curator, Historical Intelligence Collection and of the Chairman, Fine Arts Commission.

2. Public Affairs was heavily involved in planning the exhibits used in the trial public tours sponsored by Project Outreach. The unanimous conclusion was that the exhibits did not convey enough to be of permanent value and there was neither resources nor sufficient interest in trying to enhance their quality and informational thrust. Several other proposals have been proposed and considered, but all have floundered for lack of resources, sufficient Agency backing and on such practical matters as logistics, locations, upkeep, security, etc.

In 1969 Director Helms considered, but finally dropped, a suggestion to locate a museum at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1972 Director Colby established an Intelligence Museum Commission, made up of representatives from appropriate Agency components, for the purpose of developing a program "for conserving, and when appropriate, exhibiting material" of significance to CIA and its operations. According to available records the Commission met only once and no Agency-wide program was ever developed.

In 1976 an idea for a "non-profit, private" museum was proposed to Director Bush, who asked that the Management Committee consider the idea after eliciting comments from the DDA, Security, the Fine Arts Committee and the Curator of the Historical Intelligence Collection. There is no record that the Management Committee ever officially took up the subject. Early in 1977 Director Bush turned aside a request that he serve on an "Advisory Board" of a Museum after leaving the position of DCI.

3. The most persistent advocate of a museum has been the National Intelligence Study Center and its predecessor committees. Ray Cline is the President of NSIC, which is an offshoot of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies. An attempt to interest the Association of Former Intelligence Officers in supporting this proposal did not succeed.

4. A new proposal which seems to have a good chance of success is one by the Smithsonian Institute to develop a traveling exhibit of the history of aerial photography. This office is assisting the Smithsonian formulate the plans and NPIC will provide the exhibits and the technical assistance. With the full weight of Smithsonian prestige and resources, the exhibit will likely have considerable appeal. It could very well be exhibited at Headquarters as a pilot project.

5. However, any plan to attempt a new exhibit for Headquarters would produce the usual set of problems: lack of expertise to produce and present exhibits, resources for their upkeep, suitable exhibition space, classification, etc. It seems to us such problems will continue to be overriding until an Agency curator for historical materials is created and resources adequate to overcome the attendant problems are provided. As yet a consensus to move in this direction has not developed.

6. This Office would support a historical exhibit program such as suggested, but basically agrees with the Chairman, Fine Arts Commission, that the inherent problems seem almost insurmountable at this time.

Herbert E. Hetu

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TITLE OR SUBJECT OF SUGGESTION

CIA ANNIVERSARY DISPLAY

SUGGESTION NO.

79-445

PRESENT METHOD

CIA celebrates and shows recognition of its anniversary to its employees during the annual anniversary and awards ceremony such as that held on 18 September 1979 in the auditorium. Appropriate presentation of awards and certificates to employees in recognition of their long service to the Agency are normally given out by the Director. In addition, the various divisions, staffs and individual offices also participate by further recognizing our employees and accomplishments.

I SUGGEST

In addition to the above programs which are excellent, I would like to suggest a display be placed in the Exhibit Hall (1D Corridor) of items collected and donated to the Agency through the last thirty years.

25X1 By way of background, I know from a briefing [redacted] Records Center there are more than 100 gifts which have been presented to the Agency by individuals of foreign governments in previous years which are interesting, but are not known to our employees. Many of these gifts and memorabilia are unclassified and could be used for display purposes. One example is a silver tea service stored [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] and believed to be donated to the former Director, Mr. Allen Dulles which would be worthy of note and display if the history behind

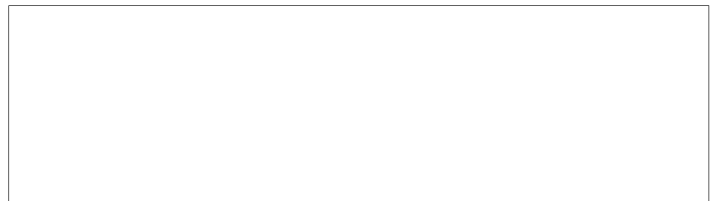
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ADVANTAGES

The advantages fall into the intangible category. Pride and esprit d' corps comes immediately to mind. The goal is to build and advertise on our well-established history as the Agency grows. We find our new and younger employees very much unaware of our past history and fine accomplishments. New employees coming into our Agency with established "roots" should feel a personal pride in joining our ranks.

FORM 244  
(1-71)USE PREVIOUS  
EDITIONS☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ ADMINISTRATIVE  
INTERNAL USE ONLY☐ UNCLASSIFIED (47)

25X1

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this donation were known.

Another example is the old Agency address sign (once used on E Street in northwest Washington) which is now located in the library. Display of the sign and a note of its history would be interesting to our newer employees. Perhaps a photograph of the old E Street Building and Gate would further highlight the sign. Other ideas for a display are photographs of the old temporary buildings which were located by the Reflecting Pool (Lincoln Memorial) and housed the Agency in its early days. To compliment these photographs of our old temporary buildings, photographs of our new building in its earliest stages and later completed state would be of interest. To compliment this display a plaque could be placed describing our earlier history up to the present time. Other ideas are photo copies of unclassified captured World-War II documents, flags and coins of foreign nations and unclassified spy paraphernalia such as the technical display used for Family Day -- the ideas for this display are endless. Employees could be asked to loan personal items to this display that have been collected by them individually through the years.

If the display is a success, this effort could be a start of a mini-Agency museum and could be placed permanently in the corridor of the first floor for all employees to enjoy, including our many outside visitors. An example of this permanent type display are the paintings of our former Directors and photographs of each President under which we have served.

The display could be managed and set up by our EAA facilities, Fine Arts Commission, or any group of interested employees who would be willing to undertake this project.

I would be happy to discuss my ideas and limited albeit successful experience in this project, "Anniversary Display".

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November 26, 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

C/OP/Programs and Procedures Staff  
1006 Ames Building

FROM Curator, Historical Intelligence Collection

SUBJECT: Employee Suggestion 79-445  
"CIA Anniversary Display"

1. I am pleased to comment on the subject Employee Suggestion and to endorse the concept proposed by the submitter.

2. This is not, however, the first suggestion for an Agency historical display and/or museum, but I believe it is the first to suggest such a display coincide with the Agency's anniversary week on an annual basis. It is possible that the last suggestion award proposal on this topic is still in count-down, and may share or take precedence over this one.

3. Background:

a. Prior to 1975, a CIA Museum Committee, chaired by the DD/A, existed to study, promote and implement a CIA museum if determined feasible. Indications are that little developed.

b. Agency offices were tasked to earmark material for such a Museum, and officers in each component were to be appointed to compile such a listing. It is believed that this effort has fallen into disuse.

c. A number of proposals by Agency officers for an Agency Museum have surfaced over the years. One of the best, in my opinion, was one to utilize a colonial-era residence, included on the National Register of Historic Places, at  for such a museum, classified and unclassified. From that beginning, displays could be developed and eventually the best unclassified exhibits could be moved to Headquarters for either temporary or permanent display. Another proposal for a Headquarters Museum suggested a Museum and briefing center located in a separate building to be constructed near the main gate, and functioning as a "Visitors' Center."

d. At the time of interest in Project Outreach, two large rooms at the end of the exhibit corridor were suggested for use as a Museum, which would permit their use as an unclassified museum for visitors. It was suggested that the displays built for Outreach ultimately could be go on permanent display there. The independent office controlling the area was reluctant to release it for for that purpose.

4. I will not comment on the specific items for display as proposed in the suggestion. Some of them have been done, some are impractical. They are, however, the type of brainstorming that would be desirable should a Museum or "Anniversary Exhibit" win acceptance.

5. I would suggest that you seek the comments of the Fine Arts Commission and the Office of Public Affairs on this employee suggestion.

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17 DEC 1979

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
C/OP/Programs and Procedures Staff  
FROM : [REDACTED]  
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission  
SUBJECT : Employee Suggestion 79-445,  
"CIA Anniversary Display"

1. The Fine Arts Commission endorses the suggestion for an exhibit of pictures, gifts, and memorabilia relating to the Agency's history and concurs with the comments of the Curator, Historical Intelligence Collection.

2. Recently the Fine Arts Commission has been discussing the possibility of several exhibits of the kind suggested:

a. An exhibit on the history of overhead reconnaissance. We envision a cooperative effort between CIA, the National Air and Space Museum, and perhaps the Kennedy and Eisenhower Presidential Museums, whereby the exhibit would go to more accessible museums after being displayed here. Help from these museums would be needed; organizing such an exhibit is a major undertaking.

b. An exhibit on "Homes of the CIA." Headquarters Building will be 20 years old in 1980. The exhibit would cover the history of our use of buildings in the Washington area--the tempos at the reflecting pool, 2430 E Street, and so on.

c. Exhibits on specific intelligence events. Suggestions include the Berlin tunnel, our effort in Laos, and redisplay of the exhibit on the Cuban missile crisis.

3. There are two problems that have thwarted most of the kinds of ideas mentioned by the suggester: money and security. (Space is less of a problem: we have an exhibit area in 1D corridor for rotating exhibits and the reception area of Headquarters could be modified for permanent displays--within limits.) These kinds of exhibits cannot

depend totally on voluntary help. Professional research is needed, display units need to be constructed, and display items must be found and refurbished. There is little hope of getting CIA funds or CIA people freed for such purposes. The security problem is also severe. Much of the material for such exhibits is unclassified, but in most cases some material critical to the success of historical displays is classified, and it takes considerable pulling and tugging to get such items sanitized or declassified. We find, for example, that foreign gifts to CIA can be displayed, but without reference to their source--which is part of their intrinsic interest to our employees and the public.

4. None of the above is meant to dampen the enthusiasm of the suggester; with patience and perseverance much of what he wants done can be done. The Fine Arts Commission would welcome his/her help.

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cc: Curator, Historical  
Intelligence Collection

